

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 UDORN 00414 031059Z

50

ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 VO-01 SCA-01 DHA-01 ORM-01

L-01 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /043 W

----- 041182

R 030941Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL UDORN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 435

INFO: RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 2221

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 414

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA, TH

SUBJECT: STATUS OF THAI-DAM REFUGEES

1. AMONG THE THAI-DAM (BLACK THAI) REFUGEES IN NONGKHAI ARE SOME VIENTIANE MISSION EMPLOYEES. A GOOD CASE CAN BE MADE THAT THE THAI-DAM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE VIETNAMESE FOR PURPOSES OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM. WE PROPOSE TO SEND THE THAI-DAM EMPLOYEES WHO WISH TO GO TO THE U.S. AS WE HAVE BEEN SENDING VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES OF THE VIENTIANE MISSION. WE HAVE COME TO THIS INTERPRETATION JOINTLY WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS FROM VIENTIANE WHO ARE NOW IN UDORN.

2. THE THAI-DAM IN LAOS CAME FROM NORTH VIETNAM AFTER THE DEFEAT OF DIEN BIEN PHU IN 1954. THE THAI-DAM HAD LINED UP WITH THE FRENCH AND FOUGHT AGAINST THE VIET MINH. AFTER THE FRENCH DEFEAT THEY FELT THEY HAD TO RUN TO AVOID MASS EXECUTION, SO THEY MOVED INTO LAOS--MOSTLY INTO VIENTIANE WHERE THEY FOUND WORK IN VARIOUS URBAN CAPACITIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. MISSION.

3. THE LAO GOVERNMENT DID NOT ALLOW THE THAI-DAM TO BECOME LAO CITIZENS, BUT RATHER KEPT THEM IN LIMBO AS REFUGEES--EVIDENTLY WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD GO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 UDORN 00414 031059Z

BACK TO NORTH VIETNAM. THEY COULD NOT GO BACK, OF COURSE,

AND NOW THEY FIND THEMSELVES ON THE RUN AGAIN.

4. WE THUS SEE THE THAI-DAM AS IN AN IDENTICAL SITUATION WITH THE VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE FLED FROM LAOS. THEY ORIGINALLY COME FROM THE SAME COUNTRY AND ARE REFUGEES NOW FOR THE SAME REASONS. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THEIR MOTHER TONGUE, AND THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE SUFFICIENT REASON TO TREAT THE THAI-DAM DIFFERENTLY FROM THEIR ETHNIC VIETNAMESE COMPATRIOTS.

5. IF THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO THIS LINE OF REASONING WE WILL BEGIN TO ENTER INTO THE REFUGEE FLOW THOSE THAI-DAM WHO ARE CERTIFIED BY VIENTIANE OFFICERS AS EMPLOYEES OF THE VIENTIANE MISSION.

BIGELOW

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975UDORN00414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750230-1119
From: UDORN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750785/aaaacydm.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITFE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF THAI-DAM REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, LA, TH
To: STATE VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006